

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01145 181616Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /102 W

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P R 181600Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1619

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, FI

SUBJECT: FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S VISIT TO SWEDEN

REF: STOCKHOLM 1083

1. FINNISH PRESIDENT ERHO KEKKONEN'S ANNUAL PRIVATE FISHING TRIP TO SWEDEN WAS COMPLICATED BY THE ALLEGATIONS OF SWEDISH SPYING ON FINNISH SOIL (SEE REFTEL). BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT "IB AFFAIR" WAS MAJOR SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION WHEN KEKKONEN HAD INFORMAL LUNCH WITH PALME MARCH 17. "OTHER SUBJECTS" WERE DISCUSSED, ACCORDING TO PALME, BUT KEKKONEN'S VISIT WAS NOT MEANT TO INCLUDE MUCH BUSINESS AND WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY KIND OF COMMUNIQUE.

2. PALME APPEARED ON SWEDISH TV MARCH 17 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT KEKKONEN VISIT AND IB INVOLVEMENT IN FINLAND. HE SAID FINNS HAD BEEN SEEKING INFO ABOUT OVERFLIGHTS OF FINNISH TERRITORY BY SWEDISH "PRIVATE AIRCRAFT." (THIS IS IN ADDITION TO ALLEGATIONS OF A SWEDISH SPY SHIP AND SPYING FROM A HOTEL--SEE REFTEL.)
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 01145 181616Z

ALTHOUGH DENYING THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT THSES FLIGHTS

"HAD BEEN USED FOR INTELLIGENCE PURPOSES," PALME SAID HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT PHOTOGRAPHS HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN. FLIGHT DIARIES AND OTHER MATERIAL HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO FINNISH AUTHORITIES, AND PLAME SAID IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO RELEASE MORE INFO ON THESE FLIGHTS AFTER SCHEDULED MEETING OF FOREIGN ADVISORY COUNCIL TODAY.

3. PALME DECLARED THAT HE AND PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAD AGREED THAT CONVERSATION WAS USEFUL AND THAT TWO COUNTIRES NOW WILL CONSIDER IB CASE CLOSED. "WITH REFERENCE TO THE ABSURD ALLEGATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THIS CASE IT IS A GOOD TESTIMONIAL TO SWEDISH-FINNISH RELATIONS THAT PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CLEAR UP THIS CASE QUICKLY AND IN A FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE," HE CONCLUDED.

4. KEKKONEN SAID HE WOULD MAKE NO STATEMENT UNTIL AFTER HIS RETURN TO FINLAND.
OLSEN

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Message Attributes

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